UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE | FOREST SERVICE | RO

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5RC4
85-23

REPLY TO: 3420 Pest Management Evaluation DATE: November 27, 1985

SUBJECT: Table Mountain Campground, Dwarf Mistletoe Post-Suppression Evaluation (Report No. 85-23)

TO: Forest Supervisor, Angeles National Forest

Forest Pest Management pathologist James Allison and assistant Resource Officer Nicholas Giannettino conducted a post-suppression evaluation of the dwarf mistletoe control project in the Table Mountain Campground on August 27-30, 1985. This project was completed by the Valyermo Ranger District on June 30, 1985. The objective of this post-suppression evaluation was to determine if the guidelines as stated in the project proposal, were followed. These guidelines were: (1) removal of dwarf mistletoe brooms; (2) pruning to remove dwarf mistletoe-infected branches within the frame- work of the District's percent live crown requirement both before and after pruning; and (3) removal of trees with a dwarf mistletoe ratings of 5 or 6 - in special situations these may be broom pruned.

A final post-suppression evaluation of the project is planned by the District in 1990 to determine if long-term objectives were achieved; namely 1) maintain a healthy, vigorously growing, multi-storied tree cover in the campground and 2) enhance the recreational character by reducing the effects of the disease.

During the current post-suppression evaluation the stand was examined to see how well the following guidelines were met: 1) removal of all dwarf mistletoe brooms; 2) leaving of 30% live crown; 3) removal of severely infected trees; and 4) determining if treated trees were threatened by other pest problems, such as annosus root disease or bark beetles, which would negate the positive effects of broom pruning.

The Hawksworth Dwarf Mistletoe Rating and the estimation of live crown in a tree are subjective and therefore dependent on the individual that makes the rating or percent estimation of live crown. The amount of live crown removed is often a compromise between desired visual appearance and pruning recommendations suggested by FPM.

The pruning of trees to 30% live crown allows removal of the mistletoe but still leaves enough live crown for the tree to survive. The pruning crews often stopped short of their goal of 30% live crown. It may have been that they were unable to make the determination, that they were overly concerned about removing too much of the crown, or the pruning was compromised by the visual appearance requirements.

The treatment of some trees scheduled for pruning or removal was not completed. The pruning crews were rather conservative and did not prune a number of trees to the specification set down in the project work plan. The result was to leave brooms and trees that were identified prior to treatment for either pruning or removal. During this post-suppression evaluation there are also additional trees which we identified in the campground and vicinity which would benefit from pruning.

We recommend that 1) remaining infected trees be pruned or removed so as to complete this control project for all of the Table Mountain Campground area and prevent the local build-up of bark beetles and the tree mortality that would result; 2) the District monitor the work of the pruning crews to insure that work is being carried out as specified in the work plan: 3) the District do this work in the late summer or fall so that green slash will not be created in the spring or early summer when the hazard of pine engraver attack and build-up is high; and 4) we suggest that treated trees be retagged below the ground line to preserve their identity in the campground setting for use in the District's 1990 post suppression evaluation.

The post-suppression evaluation did not reveal any other pest problems, such as bark beetles or annosus root disease, which would threaten the health of the pruned trees.

Copies of treatments needed and their map locations of both individual trees in the project area and of Twisted Arrow and Mohave Rim loops is available in the District office and the Regional office.

Although this evaluation points out a few deficiencies, this project is moving along rather well considering that this is the first such project that the District has attempted and that this suppression project has been made more difficult by biological, visual need, and pattern of use constraints. I wish to commend the District on the job they have done so far and encourage them to continue on with this project.

We suggest that additional funds be applied for if needed to complete the project. These funds can be applied for by attaching an addendum to the existing work plan, stating the work to be done, date, and the cost.

If you or your Staff need further assistance please contact James Allison of my Staff at 415-556-6520.

Wilfred L. Freeman Jr.

WILFRED L. FREEMAN, JR.
Director of Forest Pest Management

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